

REMARKS

In response to the Office Communication mailed December 29, 2003, Applicants resubmit the amendment previously mailed on December 15, 2003 to provide a complete listing of all claims in order to comply with the revised amendment practice.

Claims 1-4, 13, 15, 35-38, 45, 46, 48, 53-57, 67 and 68 were previously pending in this application. Claims 2-4, 13, 15, 35-38, 45, 46, 48, 53-57, 67 and 68 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to nonelected claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more applications on the subject matter of the nonelected claims.

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 74-81 have been added. As a result claims 1 and 74-81 are pending for examination with claim 1 being an independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 74-81 are dependent from claim 1. Support for claims 74-81 may be found in the claims as filed (claims 5-12), on page 6, lines 20-24, in Table 1 on pages 6 and 7, and on page 8, lines 9-26.

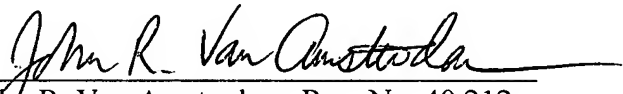
Applicants would also like to comment on the statement made by the Examiner on page 3. The Examiner stated that "According to the applicants' definitions, liver macrophages are Kupffer cells (specification, page 6, line 14) which are obtained from liver (specification, page 49, par. 3)." On page 6, line 14, Applicants make reference to Kupffer cells as an example of a liver macrophage. Applicants note that liver macrophages include Kupffer cells and are not only Kupffer cells. Liver macrophages include Kupffers as well as other macrophages. This comment by the applicants does not alter the Examiner's conclusion that the subject matter of claim 1 is free from prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas P. Stossel et al., Applicants

By: 
John R. Van Amsterdam, Reg. No. 40,212
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211
Telephone: (617)720-3500

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